What is claimed is:

1. A method operable on a computer for distributing requirements to facilitate international shipping, comprising the steps of:

storing on said computer core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing on said computer respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

receiving a request for requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for said selected country;

providing said core requirements to said requester; and

providing, if country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for said country, said country-specific requirements to said requester.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said step of receiving a request comprises receiving a request for requirements for a plurality of countries; and further including the steps of:

determining if respective country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for respective ones of said plurality of countries;

providing, if respective country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for respective ones of said plurality of countries, said respective country-specific requirements to said requester.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1 and further including the step of providing said core requirements and said respective country-specific requirements in a matrix chart format.

4. A system for distributing requirements to facilitate international shipping, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor and storing instructions for controlling the operation of said processor to perform the steps of:

storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

receiving a request for requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored for said selected country;

providing said core requirements to said requester; and

5   providing, if country-specific requirements are stored for said country, said

country-specific requirements to said requester.

5.   The system of claim 4 wherein said step of receiving a request comprises receiving a

request for requirements for a plurality of countries; and further including the steps of:

10   determining if respective country-specific requirements are stored for respective ones of

said plurality of countries;

providing, if respective country-specific requirements for respective ones of said plurality

of countries, said respective country-specific requirements to said requester.

15   6.   The system of claim 4 and further including the step of providing said core requirements

and said respective country-specific requirements in a matrix chart format.

7.   A program product containing a program operable on a computer for distributing

requirements to facilitate international shipping, said program product comprising instructions

20   for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

receiving a request for requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored for said selected country;

25   providing said core requirements to said requester; and

providing, if country-specific requirements are stored for said country, said

country-specific requirements to said requester.

8.   A method operable on a computer of obtaining international shipping requirements,

30   comprising the steps of:

requesting, on said computer, international shipping requirements for a selected country;

receiving, on said computer, core international shipping requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

receiving, on said computer, an indication of respective country-specific requirements available for said selected country.

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9.   A method in accordance with claim 8 and further including the step of receiving, on said computer, if respective country-specific requirements are available for said selected country, said respective country-specific requirements.

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10.   A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein said requesting step includes requesting, on said computer, international shipping requirements for a plurality of selected countries; and further comprising the steps of

receiving, on said computer, said core requirements and, if respective country-specific requirements are available for one or more of said plurality of selected countries, said respective country-specific requirements.

11.   A method in accordance with claim 8 wherein said core and said respective country-specific requirements are received in a matrix chart format.

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12.   A system for obtaining international shipping requirements, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor and storing instructions to control the operation of said processor to perform the steps of:

25   requesting international shipping requirements for a selected country;

receiving core international shipping requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

receiving an indication of respective country-specific requirements available for said selected country.

13.   A system in accordance with claim 12 and further including the step of receiving, if respective country-specific requirements are available for said selected country, said respective country-specific requirements.

5   14.   A system in accordance with claim 13 wherein said requesting step includes requesting international shipping requirements for a plurality of selected countries; and further comprising the steps of

receiving said core requirements and, if respective country-specific requirements are available for one or more of said plurality of selected countries, said respective country-specific

10   requirements.

15.   A system in accordance with claim 12 wherein said core and said respective country-specific requirements are received in a matrix chart format.

15   16.   A program product containing a program operable on a computer for obtaining international shipping requirements, said program product comprising instructions for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

requesting, on said computer, international shipping requirements for a selected country;

receiving, on said computer, core international shipping requirements applicable to a

20   plurality of countries;

receiving, on said computer, an indication of respective country-specific requirements available for said selected country.

17.   A method operable on a computer for managing requirements to facilitate international

25   shipping, comprising the steps of:

storing on said computer core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing on said computer respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

protecting said core requirements and said country-specific requirements so that they can

30   only be modified by an authorized user;

receiving a request to modify a one of said core requirements or a one of said country-specific requirements; and

providing said request to said authorized user.

5   18.   A method in accordance with claim 17 and further including the step of modifying, with the approval of said authorized user, the requested one of said core or country-specific requirements.

19.   A method in accordance with claim 17 and further including the steps of:

10   storing on said computer subscription information including an identifier of a system user requesting notification of a modification to said core requirements or selected country-specific requirements; and

providing, upon modification of said core requirements or said selected country-specific requirements, notice to said system user.

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20.   A system for managing requirements to facilitate international shipping, comprising:

a processor

a memory operatively connected to said processor and storing instructions for controlling said processor to perform the steps of:

20   storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

protecting said core requirements and said country-specific requirements so that they can only be modified by an authorized user;

receiving a request to modify a one of said core requirements or a one of said

25   country-specific requirements; and

providing said request to said authorized user.

21.   The system of claim 20 and further including the step of modifying, with the approval of said authorized user, the requested one of said core or country-specific requirements.

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22. The system of claim 20 and further including the steps of:

storing subscription information including an identifier of a system user requesting notification of a modification to said core requirements or selected country-specific requirements; and

5   providing, upon modification of said core requirements or said selected country-specific requirements, notice to said system user.

23. A program product containing a program operable on a computer for managing requirements to facilitate international shipping, said program product comprising instructions

10 for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

protecting said core requirements and said country-specific requirements so that they can only be modified by an authorized user;

15   receiving a request to modify a one of said core requirements or a one of said country-specific requirements; and

providing said request to said authorized user.

24. A method operable on a computer of obtaining requirements for international shipping,

20 comprising the steps of:

submitting, on said computer, a request for a notification of a modification to a requirement for an identified international shipping requirement; and

receiving, on said computer, a notification of said modification.

25 25. A method in accordance with claim 24 and further including the step of receiving said modification on said computer.

26. A system for obtaining requirements for international shipping, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor storing instructions for controlling said processor to perform the steps of:

    submitting a request for a notification of a modification to a requirement for an identified international shipping requirement; and

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    receiving a notification of said modification.

27.   The system of claim 26 and further including the step of receiving said modification.

28.   A program product containing a program operable on a computer for obtaining

10 requirements for international shipping, said program product comprising instructions for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

    submitting a request for a notification of a modification to a requirement for an identified international shipping requirement; and

    receiving a notification of said modification.

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29.   A method operable on a computer to provide a test for comparing the compliance of an international shipment with requirements for international shipping, comprising the steps of:

    storing on said computer a plurality of questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

    providing on said computer correct answers to said plurality of questions;

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    receiving a request to test an international shipment for compliance with said requirements;

    making available said plurality of questions;

    receiving input answers to said plurality of questions; and

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    comparing said input answers to said correct answers to determine if said international shipment is in compliance with said international shipment requirements.

30.   A method in accordance with claim 29 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment from a particular originating country.

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31.　　A method in accordance with claim 29 wherein said identified shipment is tested as a shipment to a particular destination country.

32.　　A method in accordance with claim 29 wherein said identified situation is a shipment having particular contents.

33.　　A method in accordance with claim 29 and further including the steps of generating a compliance report based on said answers.

34.　　A method in accordance with claim 29 and further including the steps of:

aggregating on said computer results based on a plurality of international shipment tests; and

making available a plurality of compliance reports based on said results.

35.　　A method in accordance with claim 29 and further including the step of, if said international shipment is not in compliance with said requirements, initiating an action plan.

36.　　A method in accordance with claim 35 wherein said step of initiating an action plan includes identifying an action plan handler.

37.　　A method in accordance with claim 36 and further including the step of creating a stored record of said action plan and said action plan handler.

38.　　A method in accordance with claim 37 and further including the step of creating a user report based on said stored record.

39.　　A system for providing a test for comparing the compliance of an international shipment with requirements for international shipping, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor and containing instructions for controlling the operation of said processor to perform the steps of:

storing a plurality of questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

5   providing correct answers to said plurality of questions;

receiving a request to test an international shipment for compliance with said requirements;

making available said plurality of questions;

receiving input answers to said plurality of questions; and

10   comparing said input answers to said correct answers to determine if said international shipment is in compliance with said international shipment requirements.

40.   The system of claim 39 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment from a particular originating country.

41.   The system of claim 39 wherein said identified shipment is tested as a shipment to a particular destination country.

42.   The system of claim 39 wherein said identified situation is a shipment having particular contents.

43.   The system of claim 39 and further including the steps of generating a compliance report based on said answers.

25   44.   The system of claim 39 and further including the steps of:

aggregating on said computer results based on a plurality of international shipments; and

making available a plurality of compliance reports based on said results.

45.   The system of claim 39 and further including the step of, if said international shipment is 30 not in compliance with said requirements, initiating an action plan.

46. The system of claim 45 wherein said step of initiating an action plan includes identifying an action plan handler.

5 47. The system of claim 46 and further including the step of creating a stored record of said action plan and said action plan handler.

48. The system of claim 47 and further including the step of creating a user report based on said stored record.

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49. A program product containing a program operable on a computer for providing a test for comparing the compliance of an international shipment with requirements for international shipping, said program product comprising instructions for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

15   storing a plurality of questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

providing correct answers to said plurality of questions;

receiving a request to test an international shipment for compliance with said requirements;

20   making available said plurality of questions;

receiving input answers to said plurality of questions; and

comparing said input answers to said correct answers to determine if said international shipment is in compliance with said international shipment requirements.

25 50. The program product of claim 49 wherein said program product further comprises instructions for operating said computer to perform the step of, if said international shipment is not in compliance with said requirements, initiating an action plan.

51. A method operable on a computer to test an international shipment with requirements for
30 international shipping, comprising the steps of:

reviewing said international shipment;

requesting on said computer questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

receiving on said computer said questions; and

5   inputting into said computer, based on said reviewing step, answers to said questions.

52.   A method in accordance with claim 51 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment from a particular originating country.

10   53.   A method in accordance with claim 51 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment to a particular destination country.

54.   A method in accordance with claim 51 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment having particular contents.

15   55.   A method in accordance with claim 51 and further including the steps of receiving a compliance report based on the answers.

56.   A system for testing an international shipment with requirements for international 20   shipping, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor and containing instructions for controlling the operation of said processor to perform the steps of:

reviewing said international shipment;

25   requesting questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

receiving said questions; and

inputting, based on said reviewing step, answers to said questions.

57.   The system of claim 56 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment from a particular originating country.

58.   The system of claim 56 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment to a particular destination country.

59.   The system of claim 56 wherein said international shipment is tested as a shipment having particular contents.

60.   The system of claim 56 and further including the steps of receiving a compliance report based on the answers.

61.   A program product containing a program operable on a computer for testing an international shipment with requirements for international shipping, said program product comprising instructions for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

        reviewing said international shipment;

        requesting questions for testing the compliance of said international shipment with requirements;

        receiving said questions; and

        inputting, based on said reviewing step, answers to said questions.

62.   A method operable on a computer for distributing requirements to facilitate international shipping, comprising the steps of:

        storing on said computer core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

        storing on said computer respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

        storing on said computer country-specific summary requirements corresponding to said country-specific requirements;

        receiving a request for a summary report of requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for said selected country; and

providing, if country-specific requirements are stored on said computer for said country, said country-specific summary requirements to said requester.

63.   A method in accordance with claim 62 wherein said country-specific summary requirements are provided in a matrix chart format.

64.   A method in accordance with claim 63 and further including the steps of:

storing on said computer core summary requirements corresponding to said core requirements; and

providing said core summary requirements to said requester in said matrix chart format.

65.   A system for distributing requirements to facilitate international shipping, comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to said processor and containing instructions for controlling the operation of said processor to perform the steps of:

storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

storing country-specific summary requirements corresponding to said country-specific requirements;

receiving a request for a summary report of requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored for said selected country; and

providing, if country-specific requirements are stored for said country, said country-specific summary requirements to said requester.

66.   The system of claim 65 wherein said country-specific summary requirements are provided in a matrix chart format.

67.   The system of claim 66 and further including the steps of:

storing core summary requirements corresponding to said core requirements; and

providing said core summary requirements to said requester in said matrix chart format.

68.   A program product containing a program operable on a computer for providing a test for comparing the compliance of an international shipment with requirements for international shipping, said program product comprising instructions for operating said computer to perform the steps of:

storing core requirements applicable to a plurality of countries;

storing respective country-specific requirements applicable to respective countries;

storing country-specific summary requirements corresponding to said country-specific requirements;

receiving a request for a summary report of requirements for a selected country;

determining if country-specific requirements are stored for said selected country; and

providing, if country-specific requirements are stored for said country, said country-specific summary requirements to said requester.